

ITEM #14: PASSENGER RAIL PLANNING AND OVERVIEW
DJ Stadtler, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)

On March 20, 2021 Governor Ralph Northam announced a landmark agreement between the Commonwealth, Amtrak, CSX, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) to expand and improve passenger, commuter, and freight rail within the state and create a vital connection from Virginia to other major metropolitan areas along the East Coast.

The finalization of this agreement launches a \$3.7 billion investment that will allow for the construction of critical rail infrastructure, expand Amtrak and VRE services, create a pathway for separation of freight and passenger rail, and preserve future rail corridors in the State. This agreement will also increase Amtrak's Service to the Hampton Roads region.

Mr. DJ Stadtler, the recently appointed Executive Director of VPRA, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item and the ongoing planning efforts to enhance passenger rail service in the Hampton Roads region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For informational purposes.